



The Steering Wheel

January, 2018

Newsletter of the Midwest Antique Auto Club
Not affiliated with any national club.

An independent group of collectible vehicle enthusiasts.

Dedicated to the preservation of the antique/collectible automobile.

Presidents	John & Karen Thurber	Ph. (402)-496-7701
Vice Presidents	Dave Hansen	Ph. (402)-350-6505
Secretaries	Gloria & Tom Kannas	Ph. (712)-566-9818
Treasurers	Dixie & Ken Foote	Ph. (712)-566-2803
Tour Committees	Ed & Janet Hedegaard	Ph. (712)-566-2220
Tour Committees	Jim & Cheryl Cushman	Ph. (402)-558-0150
News Letter Editors	Dave & Esther Miller	Ph. (402)-593-2009
Historians	Clif & Joyce Ellis	Ph. (402)-397-4279

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. The Board meets at 6:00 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 7:00 during the months of November, January, February and March at PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, Northwest Corner of 76th & Maple Streets in Omaha. During the summer months of April, May, June, July, August, September and October, there are no inside meetings. In these months we have “Official Car Tours” on the third Sunday of each month. Plus whatever extra tours may please us. There is no meeting in December, that meeting is replaced by our annual Christmas banquet. All vehicles are welcome, any year, make or model, but a drivable collectible/antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

The deadline for articles for the Steering Wheel is the last Saturday of the month.

The President’s Message



Hello Everyone,

I hope you had a nice Christmas and good New Year. As I am writing this, it is about 1 degree outside with negative 20 below wind chills. I hope everyone is handling the cold ok and not having too many car issues (or frozen pipes). I was thinking about the time about 50 years ago when you still used 6 volt batteries to run your cars. It was remarkable that cars could start with six volts when the temperatures got to near zero. But people still drove their cars and started them with six volts and cold temperatures. With myself owning and driving a car with a six volt battery, I feel that as long as you use the right thick battery cables and keep the cable ends clean, you shouldn’t really have a problem with starting cars in cold weather with six volt batteries.

I have some bad news to share. Two long time members of the Midwest Antique Auto Club recently passed away. John Alvey, a former president of our club passed away in Coffeyville Kansas in December. Although I didn’t know John well, I understand that he was a very active member before moving to Kansas. Also, John Miller passed away just before Christmas. It was my pleasure to get to know John over the last

few years. As a WW2 veteran, I really enjoyed the stories John had to share about his service in the Navy on the USS St. Louis. I also appreciated him and Tom taking his Model A out on tours. John also usually gave the invocation at our annual Christmas dinners. John will be missed.

Stay warm the next few weeks. See you in January.

John and Karen Thurber✿

Coming Events

January 13th

SIOUX FALLS, SD — Race and Hi Performance Swap Meet, WH Lyons Fairgrounds. Contact: Bill Lev, 605-201-4545

January 20th (Saturday) 7:00 pm.


January 20th, 2018. This is the second official indoor meeting of the season. The first Indoor Meeting for the 2018 year. Annual Winter “Chili Dump” Party!! Along with our Annual “White Elephant Sale”. Remember baked goods are good sale items. Members are asked to make a batch of their favorite chili. It does not need to be a big batch, just big enough to give 4 people a bowl will be more than enough. Please do not make any chili that will be so hot it leaves a hole in the bowl or melts paint. It can be with beans, without beans, hamburger based, chicken based, with macaroni or without macaroni. Members A-L bring a desert, M-Z bring a salad or side dish. Singles bring soup crackers, Fritos or corn chips. Drinks are furnished. So clean out your garages and closets and come eat chili!!** We will need to discuss next year’s meeting time and place due to the afterhours that we have our meeting. 2018 meetings are set, this would be for 2019. So bring any thoughts or ideas with you.

February 17th (Saturday) 7:00 pm.

This is the third official indoor meeting of the season. This is the month for RED, Happy Valentines Day! **Please bring a red desert or salad. We will have our general meeting followed by BINGO. So bring your lucky marking pen. It should be a good time for all!!!.

February 24-25th

MONTICELLO, IA — 48th Annual Rod and Custom Car Show, Monticello Berndes Center, 766 N. Maple St. Information: 319-465-5119 or www.rodandcustomcarshow.com



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February 25th

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE — Original Sioux City Racers & Rodders Swap Meet. Marina Inn Convention Center. Information: Lloyd Schweigert, 712-239-6199 or 712-898-2943

March 4th

LINCOLN, NE — 45th Annual Rocky Manginelli Swap Meet, Lancaster Event Center, 4100 N. 84th St. "The first and largest swap meet of the year held in Nebraska!" Contact: Curt Wagner, 402-990-0159



Member News

ELECTION RESULTS

President; John Thurber, Vice President: Dave Hansen, Secretary: Gloria/Tom Kannas, Treasurer: Dixie/Ken Foote, Tours: Ed Hedegaard, Tours: Jim/Cheryl Cushman, Newsletters: Esther/Dave Miller.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Our Christmas Banquet was very nice. Dixie Foote has once again done a wonderful job organizing this, ordering the cake, food tags, and keeping track of the tours that every one attended and the hat numbers that women wore. Gloria Kannas did the chocolate car molds! So we will do it again next year!

We have heard word that Lloyd Burke has been in the hospital with kidney issues. Please keep him in your prayers. Cards would be welcome.


****DUES ARE PAST DUE! PLEASE SEND THEM TO DIXIE FOOTE IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID.**

John B. Alvey



John B. Alvey, 72, of Coffeyville passed away Thursday, December 7, 2017 at Windsor Place in Coffeyville; ending his battle against cancer and beginning his reunion with his Lord, our God. John was long time member and president of the MAAC Club.

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He was born on February 19, 1945 in Coffeyville to Herb and Clarys June (Hepner) Alvey. He attended school in West Coffeyville and Coffeyville. After graduation from Field Kindley High School, he attended one year at (CCC) Coffeyville Junior College. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and was stationed at Misawa, Japan and then in Pakistan. After receiving his honorable discharge, he returned to Coffeyville and began a career with the Katy Railroad in Muskogee, OK. Katy and Union Pacific merged and John moved to Kansas City. Later he transferred to Bellevue, NE where he continued in crew management until his retirement after 37 years with UP, seldom missing work. On January 3, 2004 John married Wendy Williams Whicker. They lived in Bellevue, NE until returning to Coffeyville in 2008.

He was also a member of Keystone Masonic Lodge #102 A.F. & A.M., Shrine, and the Order of the Eastern Star both in Bellevue, NE in Alpha Chapter and in Coffeyville Chapter #112 (now Eva Chapter #18 in Independence) where he was a Past Patron in each Chapter. He enjoyed with gusto being the vineyard inspector for Osage Springs Vineyard in Coffeyville. He seldom missed 1500 Club or chances to show or especially to drive one of his antique cars. Years of affiliation with OK Car Club gave him many opportunities to enjoy sharing his joy of cars with others.

John L Miller



Miller, John L. Aug 7, 1924 - Dec 20, 2017 Preceded in death by wife of 59 years, Arlene; parents, Lawrence and Ida; sister Marian Kelley; brother Delmar. Survived by sons: James (Terri), Thomas (Peggy); sisters: Vivian Kelley, Ethel Schmidt; 5 granddaughters; 8 great grandchildren; many other relatives and friends. John will be greatly missed by this car club. He was always very upbeat and pleasant. We will miss all of his stories of his life and his Navy life in WWII. He always came on tours, and when he was unable to do that his sons, Tom & Jim, made sure he was able to be there.

Please let our Editors know if you have any news on our members, whether it is good or bad.

A WWI Christmas Story Compiled by Esther Miller

This time of year one thinks a lot about our loved ones who were here before us and that have left us in what seems to be too soon. A true occurrence that I always think about at Christmastime is Christmas Eve, 1914. On the Western Front (in No Man's Land) in World War One, this momentous event changed the lives of soldiers from France, Germany, and England (United Kingdom). "In the trenches, along many parts of the front, things were not as they had been. The spirit of Christmas was in the air and it was a most powerful and pervasive force. Added to the other elements already present-the proximity, the sharing of extreme

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conditions, the growing tendency towards a 'live and let live' mentality, the eagerness of families, friends, and even authorities that the soldiers share the pleasures of the season-that spirit became irresistible" (Brown, M. & Seaton, S., Christmas Truce, 1884, MacMillan, Pg. 60-61). It started as a barrage of singing back and forth, which became less patriotic and more hymns and old songs. Disapproved Christmas trees were carried up, along with other symbols of the season. A shell riddled church was set up for special services for the German Troops to start with (all denominations). In some sectors of the line of trenches, the truce began as early as December 23rd. Soldiers started crossing the short distance between the trenches (some as close as 30 yards) bearing no arms, started exchanging cigarettes and greetings. A parley of the officers of Germany, France, and England discussed a truce. A Christmas Day burial of killed soldiers occurred jointly in No Man's Land. As word or words from the soldiers that were sent home and censored, the upper brass of the countries involved became concerned. Fraternization and companionship were not good for the killing machine of war. Eventually most of these men were transferred to another area of the war so they would start fighting again. I am always struck by the thought that Politicians and Kings (Presidents, Dictators) get us into the wars, but they do not fight in them. How propaganda and prejudice help promote our willingness to partake in these events. Well, maybe a six pack and a bon fire would do more for world peace.

Here are some fun car facts from the book "500 Fascinating Facts" A True Record of Discoveries, Inventions and Developments in These United States (and persons responsible) by Harold Warp. Published by Pioneer Village Foundation, Minden, Nebraska 1996, 2nd Printing.

"Early cars were driven from the right, carried over from the "horse and buggy". In fact, some early cars even had a whip socket also on the right. Henry Ford moved the steering wheel to the left side when he introduced the Model T in October 1908. The writer is of the opinion that Henry Ford put the wheel on the left merely for convenience when he turned the engine around to accommodate the magneto which was fastened to the flywheel in the planetary clutch housing. A four cylinder one piece block replaced the two copper-jacketed sections. Henry Ford stated, however, that he believed if the wheel were on the left, the right hand could more easily handle the important work of steering while the left hand operated the hand levers. Drivers could also see approaching cars better. By 1910 the right-hand drive was obsolete, due to the spontaneous acceptance of Henry Ford's Model T that was first with left side steering."(#56, pg. 15).

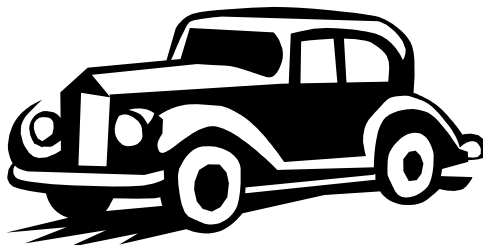
"Crosley-1939-1952-The Crosley was built in Cincinnati, Ohio by Powell Crosley, Jr. who made a fortune selling early radios and refrigerators. Thinking America needed a small car with good mileage, he introduced the 4 passenger, cloth top Crosley at the 1939 New York World's Fair. He arranged to have department stores that sold his appliances also sell his cars. Cannonball Baker, a popular race driver at the time, made a cross-country run in a Crosley, 6500 miles, averaging over 50 miles on a gallon of gasoline, to publicize it. About 4000 Crosleys were sold before World War II. Most of the parts of the Crosley 4-cylinder, air cooled engine were stamped out of sheet metal and during the war Crosley received lucrative government contracts for his inexpensive engines. In 1946, he introduced several models of the Crosley car and sold 5000 that year at \$500 to \$800. In 1947, he sold 19,000. In 1949, as larger cars became available, Crosley sales dropped to 7300 units, 6800 in 1950, 6600 in 1951, and 2100 in 1952, which was the Crosley car's final year". (#101, pg.35)

"Although the "Sears Motor Buggy" was featured on their back cover (of their catalog) in 1909 and was discontinued in 1912, this did not prevent Sears from trying again in 1952. When they commenced marketing the Allstate, made by Kaiser-Frazer, it was sold only in their stores. They did not put it in their catalog this time. Sears sold 1566 Allstates in 1952 and 797 in 1953, the year it was discontinued. The 4-cylinder Allstate sold for \$1544 and the 6-cylinder for \$1692. See both Sears' cars among 350 others at the Harold Warp Pioneer Village Foundation at Minden in south central Nebraska".(#66, pg. 18)✻

M.A.A.C.
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